

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 STR-05 FEA-01

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H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0828

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, FR

SUBJ: STEEL: JACQUES FERRY ON ANTI-DUMPING

REF: A) PARIS 2991; B) STATE 254415

SUMMARY. JACQUES FERRY, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH STEEL INSTITUTE AND EUROFER, HAS LAUNCHED AN ANTI ANTI-DUMPING CAMPAIGN. IN AN OCTOBER 26 ARTICLE, HE ASSERTS THAT "THE GENERALIZATION OF ANTI-DUMPING ACTIONS, AS SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO THE AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY, IS A WELL-DISGUISED BUT NEVERTHELESS INJURIOUS FORM OF NEW PROTECTIONISM". TEXT OF ARTICLE AIRMAILED BEIGEL, EUR/WE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN OCTOBER 26 INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE ECONOMIC DAILY "LES ECHOS", FERRY COMMENTED
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CRITICALLY ON US ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FOREIGN STEEL MANUFACTURERS. (SEE REF A FOR MORE DETAILED COMMENTS BY FERRY ON THE FRENCH STEEL SITUATION.) WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PREISDENT CARTER HAS "PROVISIONALLY" REFUSED TO ACCEPT TRADE LIMITATIONS, FERRY CHARACTERIZES THE PROLIFERATION OF ANTI-DUMPING PROCEDURES AS A FORM OF NEW PROTECTION-

ISM. HE EMPHASIZES THAT THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE TO A LARGE DEGREE ARBITRARY IN THAT BONDS ARE IMPOSED FROM THE TIME THAT AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION IS OPENED (SIC). FERRY ALSO STATES THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS MAY "DANGEROUSLY ALTER" TRADING RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US.

2. HE REITERATED THAT IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF EUROFER HE HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED IN ROME AT THE IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE MEETING THAT THE EC OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USG TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE STEEL PROBLEM "TO AVOID THE DANGER OF AN OPEN TRADE WAR". THE INITIAL REACTION OF COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON TO FERRY'S PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WAS INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED; VRAS ON STEEL SALES TO THE US WOULD ONLY BE "ATEMPORARY SOLUTION", ACCORDING TO FERRY. FERRY AGREES WITH DAVIGNON THAT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION MUST BE BASED ON A GLOBAL STEEL POLICY WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN THE WORLD STEEL INDUSTRY. TO THIS END, AN INTERNATIONAL STEEL CONFERENCE IS NECESSARY.

3. FERRY CONCLUDES THAT: "THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE EUROPEAN STEEL INDUSTRY, WHICH IS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPETITIVE, ABANDON ITS POSITION IN THE AMERICAN MARKET. IT IS THIS RIGHTFUL SHARE WHICH WE SHOULD REALISTICALLY SEEK."
HARTMAN

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